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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS – 635**

**Schooner *Elizabeth Howard* Papers
1919-1920**

by
Elisabeth Meier
October 2018

1 folder
.01 linear feet
Accession no. 78.113.6

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Abstract

Schooner *Elizabeth Howard* (1916-1923)

Papers, 1919-1920

1 folder

Two-mast auxiliary schooner built in East Boothbay, Maine

This small collection contains clearance certificates, bills of health, and other official documents from a single voyage of the Maine-built schooner *Elizabeth Howard* in the winter of 1919-1920. Most of the documents are from the schooner's port calls in Egypt, Turkey, Greece, and Gibraltar. There is one provisioning bill from New York, but no explicit mention of cargo or crew.

Museum purchase from William Hill, Gosshill Books.

MS-635. Accession 78.113.6.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Gott, Albert W., Captain (1877-1922)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Elizabeth Howard (two-mast schooner)

Added entries—key terms:

Diplomatic and consular service

Fish trade

Mediterranean region – Commerce

Schooners

Shipping – Mediterranean region

Acquisition

This collection was purchased from William Hill, of Gosshill Books, in 1978. It was part of a larger purchase that included the Captain Atwood B. Norton Papers (MS-42), the log-book and slop accounts of the schooner *M.V.B. Chase* (SM 52/1-2), Captain William Patterson Papers (MS-634), Captain Joseph Purington Account Book (MS-88 Box 5/21), the Joseph Cargill papers (MS-413), Joseph Dodge papers, (MS-636), and the Orrissa Willmarth Foster Sheppard papers (MS-637).

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers have moderate silverfish damage, though nothing essential has been lost. Four clearance or health certificates arrived stuck on self-glued scrapbook pages. Three have been removed, though there is residue from the glue; one is still attached.

Historical Note

The *Elizabeth Howard* (two-mast schooner) was built in 1916 by Frank C. Adams of East Boothbay, Maine. Adams was one of a long line of Boothbay area shipbuilders, and the third generation of the family to operate his East Boothbay shipyard. By early twentieth century, motor vessels and yachts designed by professionals like John G. Alden comprised a significant portion of Adams's business.

The *Elizabeth Howard* was built for William W. Howard. She was intended to be a merchant schooner carrying fish from Newfoundland to Mediterranean markets. However, she was designed after the racing Grand Banks fishing schooners, and her lines were "a composite adaptation of the yachts of Herreshoff, Crowninshield and Burges[s]."¹ She also apparently carried an auxiliary internal combustion engine, though this is never mentioned in her registration.

The *Elizabeth Howard* did make a career of carrying fish to the Mediterranean under the command of Captain Albert W. Gott. Thanks to her racing design, however, she was nominated to take part in the 1921 International Fisherman's races to compete against the Canadian *Bluenose*, but was disqualified because she had never actually fished. She spent the next summer fishing on the Grand Banks, which was judged enough to qualify her for the races in 1922. The *Howard* competed in the trials, but lost to the Gloucester schooner *Henry Ford* after her main topmast carried away.

In 1923, the *Elizabeth Howard* was stranded off Porter's Island, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was a complete loss.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains documents from a single voyage of the *Elizabeth Howard*, commanded by Captain Albert W. Gott, in the winter of 1919-1920. On this trip, the *Howard* visited ports in Egypt, Turkey, and Greece, including Alexandria and Smyrna. She sailed to and from New York.

The collection is quite small. It principally contains clearance certificates, bills of health, and other official paperwork from the Mediterranean ports that the *Howard* visited on her voyage. Many of these are in Arabic, Turkish, Greek, or French. There is one account for provisions purchased in New York, but no other mention of cargo.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	
1	1	Schooner <i>Elizabeth Howard</i> papers, 1919-1920

¹ "Sailing Craft Competes with Steam and Motor," *The American Marine Engineer* XII, no. 1 (January 1919): 13.